

July Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 11

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, July 11 and 12

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Albert P. Bekker

Subject:

The 1979 San Francisco International Exhibition of Nature Slides

This month the Academy is pleased to present an amazing collection of award-winning color slides taken by some of the world's most skilled nature photographers, participants in the 1979 San Francisco International Exhibition of Nature Slides.

The Photochrome Club of San Francisco, a member of the Photographic Society of America, has been sponsoring International Exhibitions of Color Slides (pictoral), and Nature Slides for many years. Earlier this year Photochrome sent invitations to amateur nature photographers all over the world and, as usual, the response has been good.

More than 1600 slides in the Nature Division were received for the competition, and on June 8 and 9 all entries were judged by a panel of three qualified naturalists, expert photographers themselves: Dr. Owen C. Berg of Temple, Texas; Howard L. Kessler of Rocklin, California; and Robert W. L. Potts of Coarsegold, California.

The top-scoring slides, approximately 20% of all entries, will be presented by Albert P. Bekker, Chairman of the Exhibition. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see a variety of excellent nature slides in this hour-long special audio-visual presentation.

As usual, your membership card admits you through the main entrance at Cowell Hall, and now that the Academy is open until 9 every evening, you may use the rear entrance off East Middle Drive into the Wattis Hall of Man. Parking is also available in this

area. For all three presentations you will be asked to present your membership card again at the entrance to Morrison Auditorium.

Please note: Artist Douglas Mazonowicz' members' presentation, as announced in the June newsletter, has been postponed until the fall.

Special Exhibits

A new exhibition entitled **Voyagers to Jupiter**, on view in Science Hall next to the Foucault Pendulum, features an interesting look at the Voyager spacecrafts and their discoveries while on mission to Jupiter. Launched in the summer of 1977, both spacecrafts were scheduled to fly by Jupiter this year (and did so) as they continue on their journeys to Saturn and beyond, conducting investigations of the two planets, numerous satellites, the rings of Saturn and more. The exhibition's diagrams, photos and a continuous film bring us highlights from the Jupiter mission including findings that have made us question previous theories about the planet.

Another current show, **Drake to Cook: Two Centuries of British Discovery in the Pacific** displays a collection of memorabilia on the two great English navigators Sir Francis Drake and Captain Cook. Presented in the Hohfeld I and II Galleries, the collection celebrates the quadricentennial of Drake's famous sojourn in California and the bicentennial honoring the memory of Cook.

Fishes King Tut Might Have Eaten, on view in Steinhart Aquarium, offers a look at Egyptian fishes including African lungfish, elephant fish, Tut's toothcarp and electric catfish — all identified by an Egyptian symbol on the tank.

Other continuing exhibitions include **Creativity — The Human Resource**, a fascinating show covering creativity in America over the last 100 years; two prehistoric art exhibits — **Ice Age Art** and **The Hand of Man**; and a color photographic show on **Bali**.

Inside the Academy

Morrison Planetarium

In Search of Ancient Astronomers continues through September 3 at Morrison Planetarium. This educational sky show takes us on a world-wide journey to discover what the ancients knew about astronomy. The program journeys to the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge and the Mayan Caracol to see what these aged monuments have in common with the skies. This program can be seen at 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m., Saturday through Tuesday; at 11 a.m., 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday; and at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

In addition to the regular planetarium sky show, see **Exploring the Skies of the Season**, a tour of the current night sky over San Francisco, each Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m.

Laserium

The Best of Laserium and Laserium Starship, the popular laser light concerts shown in Morrison Planetarium, can be seen Friday through Tuesday at the following times:

Laserium Starship:

5 and 7:30 p.m., Friday-Tuesday and 10:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday

The Best of Laserium:

9 p.m., Friday-Tuesday

Advance tickets are available at all BASS outlets. Remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before showtime. Members are reminded that this is **not** a regular planetarium show, **nor** are your membership passes usable for this attraction.



Davis vs. Steinhart . . . An exciting wrestling match in the Aquarium's reptile swamp was staged on Monday, May 14. On one side sat one of Steinhart Aquarium's 250-pound

alligators, tough competition for the opposing side, Dr. Murray Fowler of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. The wrestling match was performed during the making of a training film for veterinary students.

Fowler and his five assistants trapped the seven-foot-long gator with a wire noose and taped his thrashing jaw shut with a rope and tape, all the while trying to avoid his lively tail.

As the action began, dozens of school children gathered around to provide an adequate cheering section for the match. Many seemed to be rooting for the alligator.

But to no avail. The gator was wrapped up in the end and the filming completed as the reptile was let loose to scramble off. No victory for Steinhart, but the alligator/vet school match made local headlines the next day!

Now available at the Academy is the 272-page catalogue of a major exhibition of Mesoamerican art from the extensive collection of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis K. Land, a special show that was held at the Academy from June, 1976 through October, 1977. The beautiful color and black-and-white publication, entitled **Pre-Columbian Art From the Land Collection**, is on sale at the Academy's second floor reception area for \$21.25 including tax, or can be ordered through the mail. To do this, send a check, made payable to the California Academy of Sciences, for \$22.25 to: The Land Collection Catalogue, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 94118.

In late May a scientific delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC) visited the United States as guests of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The group, representing the Scientific and Technical Association of the People's Republic of China (STAPRC), is returning the visit made to the PRC by the AAAS Board of Directors last fall. Dr. Alan Leviton, Secretary-Treasurer of the Pacific Division of AAAS and Chairman of the Herpetology Department, arranged a special tour of the Academy's facilities for the group with stops at the aquarium, planetarium,

and several research departments. This visit from the PRC is seen as another step in forming a closer relationship between the AAAS and the STAPRC as well as in facilitating scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. Judging by the friendly smiles being exchanged by the end of the day the experience was an unqualified success!

Dr. John Thomas Howell, Curator Emeritus of the Academy's Department of Botany, is being honored on the occasion of the Tercentenary Celebration of the Botanic Garden, Berlin, with the Willdenow Medal in recognition of his generous contributions through the California Academy of Sciences toward the post-war rebuilding of the holdings and reputation of the Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem. During a blitz in 1943 the entire library and most of the herbarium of that museum were destroyed. Dr. Howell responded to their plight, as did a number of botanists worldwide, by sending thousands of specimens from the Academy's collections. This warm tribute from the Botanic Garden, Berlin, is being bestowed upon Dr. Howell in his 50th year with the California Academy of Sciences.

Academy scientists, John McCosker and Sylvia Earle were speakers at The Oceans Society of Australia Underwater Congress and Film Festival in mid-June in a program called "Oceans '79", billed as the finest line-up of speakers ever with a guest list that reads like a who's who of the diving marine science field.

Dr. McCosker presented his slide/lecture on current marine research in the U.S. and described how a public aquarium's (particularly Steinhart's) facilities are used to benefit and simplify a marine biologist's studies. Dr. Earle chaired a seminar on "Marine Science and the Amateur".

Following the three-day congress, Dr. McCosker and Professor Paul Dayton from Scripps Institution of Oceanography traveled south to Tasmania for a tour of several coastal laboratories and, at last report, for some diving to compare the kelp forests of Tasmania to the kelp beds off our own coast, each region being approximately equidistant from the equator.

Last chance to submit applications for the Docent Council's fall volunteer training program. This will be the final call for volunteer docent trainees, who learn to tour groups through North American and Simson African Halls, for the next two years. Contact the Docent Council Office at 221-5100, ext. 254 for information and an application.

A MUNI SPECIAL

For those of you who want to visit the outstanding exhibitions on view at the museums in Golden Gate Park these days, a shuttle has been set up to take visitors from free parking at Cabrillo at Great Highway to the park and back. The shuttle, known as line #74, will operate during the following hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Saturday; and 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. For further information call the Municipal Railway Transit Information Bureau at 673-MUNI.

Education and Travel Notes

Highlights of Astronomy: A Short Summer Course

July 18-August 1, 7-9 p.m.; \$10/person, \$20/family

CALIFORNIA STUDY TOURS

An Exploration of Biological Control

Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$10/member

Stanford Linear Accelerator

Wednesday, August 1, 12-4:30 p.m.; \$7/member

Chabot Observatory

Friday Eve, August 10, 7-10 p.m.; \$5/member

Giant Sequoias and Hot Springs Car Camp

August 17-19, \$10/person, \$20/family

Bird Banding at Bolinas

Saturday, August 25, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$9/member

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Coral Gardens of Micronesia

October 10-November 10, 1979

This luxury cruise aboard the **Linblad Explorer** with distinguished Academy naturalist Dr. Sylvia Earle tours sixteen islands of Micronesia. Land/cruise costs from \$4800 plus air fare of \$1270.

Baja California Overland With Barranca Del Cobre Extension

November 10-25, 1979

Botanist Annetta Carter leads this bus tour to the tip of Baja California with an optional extension to Barranca Del Cobre. Cost is approximately \$390, or \$665 with Extension, plus air fare.

Baja California Gray Whales

February 5-13, 1980

This trip along the Baja California coast aboard the **Qualifier 105** is led by naturalist Bob Nansen. Cost is approximately \$700 from San Diego. Contact Nature Expeditions Inc. at (415) 328-6572.

Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Kashmir

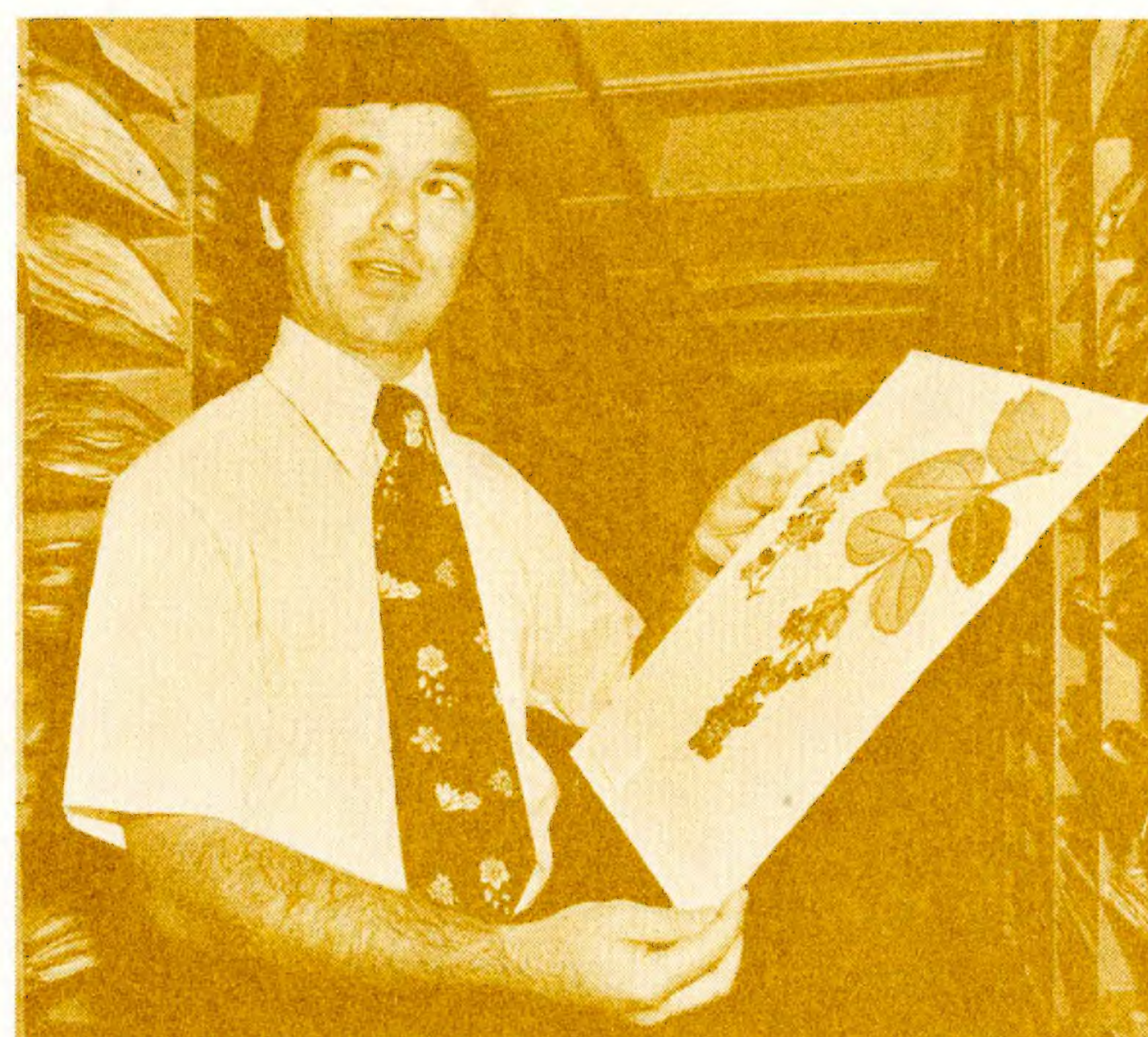
February 11-March 20, 1980

Kanha National Park, Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Royal Chitwan National Park and famous Tiger Tops are but a few of the highlights of this journey led by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Orr. Itinerary and arrangements are being planned by Siemer & Hand, Ltd. For information please call (415) 788-7186.

For more information or to make reservations on any of the above classes or trips, please call the Education/Travel Office at the Academy, 221-5100, ext. 211 or 215, unless otherwise specified.

SPECIAL NOTE: A new brochure for Academy activities is coming next month. It will be mailed separately from the newsletter and will describe autumn activities including adult courses, California study tours and international travel. More details in the August newsletter.

Meet the Staff



Few professionals stumble into their life's work at the tender age of five, but Dr. Frank Alameda, above, Associate Curator of Botany, is one of them. In his home town of Tampa, Florida, Frank's father ran a nursery as a hobby and as visitors arrived with questions, Frank was willingly pressed into service to identify the various plants on display.

His formal education comes from the University of South Florida where he received his B.A. in Botany and from Duke University which awarded him his Ph.D. in 1975. Most recently Frank was assistant professor of botany and curator of the herbarium at UCLA and he made his move to San Francisco and the Academy in the summer of '78. Frank's area of specialization is the systematics and reproductive biology of the flowering plant family called Melastomataceae. As he described this large family of tropical plants, which is most closely related to our own Evening Primroses, he emphasized the diversity of floral form and the visual signals such as color and numerical patterns that play a role in attracting insects to the flower. For instance, the specimen he is holding in the photo, from Brazil, displays a white center when it is ripe with pollen, a signal for insects to land. As the flower matures this same center turns red and the message is clear to hovering insects . . . "I have no pollen; don't stop here".

As Dr. Alameda described his work a look came over him which you see in all good

teachers and in people who really enjoy what they are doing. He explained that as soon as a botanist, either professional or hobbyist puts his "nose to the ground", so to speak, he becomes aware of much more of the world around him than the object of his attention. To understand the diversity of flowering plants as we know them today one must also understand something about their long evolutionary partnership with insects as well as aspects of the physical environment to which they have become adapted.

Frank and his wife, Mary Beth, (whom he met, appropriately, in a plant taxonomy class at Duke) live close to the park and enjoy cycling and travel. This year they have ventured to Ecuador and plan trips to Costa Rica and Panama. While Frank is attending to the Academy's collection, his wife works for the U.C. Berkeley Independent Study Program.

Continued from last month

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